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of local or national education. Let the emulation of my Country be displayed, not in words only, but in deeds. In deeds, substantially exemplified, in pouring in their patriotic gifts in aid of those whose aim is national improvement. I am yours &c.

Templemoile. POPLICOLA.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THE FOLLOWING RECEIPT FOR MAKING INK, PUBLISHED BY PROFESSOR ROBINSON, HAS BEEN USED WITH SUCCESS.

IN making ink, if the iron be in excess, the black particles gradually fall, and the ink becomes brown. If a plate of iron be kept in ink, the whole of the inky particles precipitates in a short time: several other metals produce the same effect. Hence the reason why ink becomes bad if kept in metallic vessels.

Rasped Logwood	1 ounce.
Best Nutgalls	3 ditto.
Gum Arabic	2 ditto.
Green Vitriol	1 ditto.
Rain Water	2 quarts.
Cloves	1 drachm.

Boil the water with the logwood and gum to one half, strain the hot decoction into a glazed vessel, add the green vitriol, and stir it repeatedly. After some days, decant and strain it into a bottle, to be kept close corked, in a dark place. The use of the cloves is to prevent mouldiness. The same thing is done completely by the addition of corrosive sublimate. D. C.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

TO MEDICAL MEN.

SINGULAR CASE OF SPASM.

IN the month of October last, a seaman, afflicted with spasm, was sent on shore at Carrickfergus, from his Majesty's Ship, Argus, and placed under the care of Surgeon Aiken of that town. This spasm was a most singular one; on the slightest motion of any part of his body, the diaphragm and ribs were so drawn up as to press on the lungs, and put a stop to respiration for a few seconds. He was sick and faintish, his pulse from 90 to 100, and intermitting, particularly when seized with the spasm; the pain in the diaphragm, abdominal and intercostal muscles was excruciating; the antispasmodics appeared to produce little or no effect, opium excepted, and that medicine merely relieved the pain. It required a triple proportion of cathartic medicine to produce any effect on his bowels. The disease continued for ten days, and he was cured by bleeding and blistering.

Quere....From what cause could this spasm originate? could it be from an injury done to the phrenic nerve or diaphragm, as the man was seized with it immediately after over-reaching himself. S.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

THE ADMIRABLE CRICHTON.

THE history of the admirable Crichton is doubtless familiar to our readers, and the perusal of it, while it may have been entertaining, has only left on their minds the impression, that the extravagance of the narration gave just ground to doubt even the ground work, and almost lead them to deny the existence of the real character. Such seems to have been the idea of Dr. Kippis, who, while he gives his life, gives it with much appearance of qualms of conscience in doing so. To those who may have read the account of this wonderful man, and in the midst of incredulity, have indulged a wish that human nature did possess such a gem, it may give satisfaction to find some traces of evidence, by which the reality of his existence is established; and the list of his works which were printed, confirms the general credit of the narration given of his disputations, as the subjects in the list are nearly the same with those on which he maintained his public thesis. His works were,

1. Odes to Laurentius Massa.

2. The Praises of Padua, a poem poured forth extempore, when to the astonishment of a crowded meeting of the academy in the house of Jacobus Aloysius Cornelius, he gave a specimen of his talents.

3. The Praise of Ignorance, an extemporary discourse, delivered in the same place after six hours disputation, so that those who were present, as Manutius says, declared, that it appeared to them as if they had seen a vision, and not a reality.

4. On his Arrival at Venice.

5. Odes to Aldus Manutius, the famous printer, who was his intimate friend, and an excellent scholar.

6. Letters to different persons.

7. Prefatory Discourses on all Sciences, Sacred and Profane.

8. His Opinion of Philosophy,

9. The Errors of Aristotle.

10. Whether Arms, or Letters should have the precedency?

11. Refutation of the Mathematics.

12. A Comedy in the Italian Language.

The Press of the younger Aldus in the year 1582, gave its last important work, a re-union of the Aldine editions of Cicero's works. The dedication of the Timæus in this edition furnishes the completing proof of Crichton's existence; being addressed by Aldus to him. Grief appears to have absorbed the flattery of Manucci, and as it is a good specimen of the true pathetic we shall subjoin it.

Memoriæ Jacobi Critonii.

Vel mortuum enim te laudari par est, Jacobe Critoni, quem importuna mors nobis abripuit. Quis enim te vivum non admiratus est? Quis mortuum non luget? Ego quidem, te vivo, maximum judicii mei fructum capiebam: mortuo, doloris modum non invenio. Vixisses, Critoni, vixisses, neque unquam te Virgilii patria vidisset. Fato enim quodam, nobis misero, contigit, ut quæ ipsi ortum dedit, Superiore anno (cum nondum XXII. ætatis annum explesses, gloriæ satis, nobis minimum vixisses,) tibi vitam vi eriperet. Semper ego tui memoriam colam: semper tua imago ante oculos obversabitur: semper idem mihi, eris; qui idem semper eris bonis omnibus. Faxit Deus, ut cælestia omnia tibi felicia contingant; qui cœlestia vivens semper adamaris, et in eorum contemplatione totus versatus es. O diem funestam V. Non. Quinctil. Hæc ad te, ex hoc infelici ad illud cœleste domicilium bona omnia precans, scribo. Venetiis, IV. Non. Nov. MDXXCIII.

Qui te vivum coluit mortuumque observat ALDUS MANUCCIUS.

From motives of duty, we subjoin a translation, but with reluctance, as we feel the full difficulty of expressing the force and elegance of the original.

To the Memory of James Crichton.

Even though dead thou shouldst be praised, James Crichton, whom envious death hath snatched from us. For who did not admire thee living? who doth not bewail thee dead? Through thee when living, I made the greatest advantage of my understanding:* now thou art dead, I find no measure to my grief.

Thou shouldst have lived, Oh! Crichton, thou shouldst have lived, and the country of Virgil never should have seen thee. For by some fate, an unhappy one for us, it hath happened, that the country, which gave *him* birth, should violently snatch thy life from *thee* last year, when thou hadst not yet completed the 22d. year of thine age, and hadst lived long enough to glory, but too, too little to us. Ever shall I cultivate the memory of thee: ever shall thine image be conversant before mine eyes: ever shalt thou be the same to me: thou shalt be ever the same to all good men. May God grant, that all heavenly happiness may befal thee; who, when living, didst love celestial things, and wast entirely employed in the contemplation of them. Oh hapless day, July the 3d! With prayers for every blessing on thee, I write this to thee, from this unhappy dwelling-place, to yonder celestial dwelling.

*This sentence, in the original seems to me obscure: I have given what I thought the most likely meaning: supposing him to mean that the learning and intelligence of Crichton, had been of service in directing him. This from so excellent a scholar is a very high tribute.

He, who reverenced thee when living, and dwelleth on thy memory, now thou art dead,

ALDUS MANUCCIUS.

Venice, 2d. Nov. 1583.

ANECDOTES OF THE LATE PROFESSOR PORSON.

ALTHOUGH it is expected that a Life of this celebrated character, whose death has been a subject of such regret to the admirers of classical literature, will soon be published, a sketch of the principal circumstances of it, particularly such as serve to elucidate his character, collected from the detached anecdotes and notices already laid before the public, cannot fail of being both interesting and instructive.

He was born on the 25th of December, 1759, in the village of East Ruston, Norfolk; and in his early infancy gave marks of memory, which has been one of his most singular qualifications. For the improvement of it, however, he was very much indebted to the attention of his father, who, though but an humble parish clerk in an obscure village, had sagacity to discover and perseverance to pursue the best method of laying a solid foundation for his son's future literary acquirements. Beginning in his earliest childhood, he taught his son to make arithmetical calculations in his mind, without any external assistance, with such success, that before he was nine years old the child could extract the cube root in this manner. By this means he acquired a habit of close and solid thinking, and a strength of memory, which adhered to him during his whole life, and enabled him to apply his studies to present use, with a promptitude and correctness so difficult to be attained. In teaching him the alphabet, his father adopted the plan of learning to read and write at the same time, since put in practice on an extensive scale, by Bell of Madras, and imitated by Lancaster. The figure was traced with chalk, and the child taught to pronounce the correspondent sound. This mode of learning caught the mind of the young scholar, and answered a purpose, perhaps not thought on at the time, of rendering him a correct and elegant imitator of every kind of hand-writing.

At nine he was sent to the village school, where he soon signalized himself among his fellows. Even here he was indebted to the indefatigable attention of his parent, who continued to form and strengthen his memory, by obliging him to repeat every evening the lessons he had studied during the day.

At this time mathematics appear to have been his favourite study; an anecdote recorded by himself, proves his fondness for calculation. Returning from school one evening he lost his way, and was obliged to take shelter during the night at a farmer's cottage, whose son, somewhat older than himself, had lately left school. With him he was sent to sleep; but instead of sleeping, they began to question each other about their school acquirements. He soon found that his new acquaintance was an excellent arithmetician, and had attained such powers of calculation as to be capable, like himself, of multiplying nine figures by nine, by the mere act of the mind.

Abilities like Porson's could not always remain concealed. He was first noticed by the Rev. Mr. Hewit, who undertook to instruct him in the classics. Under his tuition he remained till he was fourteen years old, during which time he made such a progress as astonished his preceptor, and made him the conversation of the men of learning around the country. Among the rest Mr. Norris, since dead, heard of this prodigy, and resolving to prove the truth of the reports concerning him, sent for him, and after subjecting him to an examination, beneath the rigour of which most boys of more than ordinary capacity must have sunk, he was so gratified with his answers, that he took him under his own patronage, sent him to Eton, and procured for him a settlement of £80 a year, while there.

While at Eton, his literary reputation continued to encrease, and he became the favourite and friend of many of the boys much higher advanced in the school than himself. He was not only the partaker of their studies, but the companion of their sports and amusements. He even composed a play,